

# These Aggies Experienced The 9/11 Tragedy

**AGGIES** were affected in countless ways by the tragic attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. There were moments of disbelief, disheartening realization and, finally, the anger and resolve to weather this terrible event and its aftermath.

The involvement of Texas Aggies, their families and friends is slowly coming to light. Here are some of those stories.

Mark Welsh '00 e-mailed The Association: "I am watching everything with the naked eye (from his apartment 200 yards from the World Trade Center)." Two hours later he was "now in midtown, but we have no phones and the power grid will be down within minutes... Just confirmed roommate Morris Hurt '01 is okay. He was at base of WTC when planes hit." Still later Mark wrote: "My roommates, family, and our closest friends are accounted for. Our neighborhood is a terrible site to see...Reliable sources tell me the three Aggies from 86th floor of WTC are okay. Apparently they were in the tower that was hit second, and were evacuated before the collapse....We have accounted for about 40 A&M former students who live or work in Manhattan, including four that were on the scene but escaped.

Morris Hurt '01 helped rescue a burn victim who was hit by falling debris after the first plane struck the WTC. He acted with complete disregard for his own life. Morris brought the burn victim to a rescue official, and was subsequently ordered to leave the area immediately."

A few days later, Tracey McAllister '96 wrote that she "came out of the subway at 8:50 and looked around because there were papers in the air everywhere. I even picked one up to see what it was - some accounting firm's pages." She saw smoke coming from the Trade Center, but had not realized that the plane had gone into the 2nd tower. "We turned on CNN when the evacuation alarm went off. We walked

down 25 flights of stairs and back outside. We started the long walk home, with building pieces falling on us like rain. My black outfit was covered with soot."

Cliff Dugosh '86 Assistant Director of A&M's Memorial Student Center, quickly reported that New York Mercantile Exchange President Bo Collins '88 got out of his office in the Financial District after the first crash and made his way to New Jersey. "His wife Kathryn is in Houston taking care of business," Dugosh wrote, "and their son Trey is with a babysitter in midtown NYC. Bo's mother was on her

counted noses, and miraculously all nine in the office came out standing up with only minor injuries."

Outside he worked with rescue, triage and CPR teams until told to move "another 500 meters away as another aircraft was reported inbound. Thankfully it never came, but precious minutes were lost."

"Many firefighters and paramedics were in and near the impact point when it collapsed. They are the truest of heroes... I feel incredibly lucky and blessed."

Tim Green '86, a high school friend of New York TV reporter Melinda Murphy

'86, wrote her that he "was in the Pentagon and also lost a friend in the attack here. I too ended up in a helicopter, though for a short period of time...The images I will not forget were the guards escorting us around, flying over the Pentagon and seeing the people and destruction, seeing all the roads out of DC in complete gridlock while the roads in were empty, the people walking across bridges in order to escape a possible second attack to the city, and flying over National Airport without a soul in sight...it was not a dream or movie."

Angelique Dorazio-Sanders '00 and her husband Jason Sanders '98 moved to DC in March. Three days after the attack, she was back in the classroom teaching and

reported, "my children are not the same. Seeing a government building burning from your classroom is not something you forget, nor is huddling under your desk not knowing what is going to happen." Jason had to be evacuated from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 3 blocks from the White House. "My heart goes out to not only the Aggie community but the United States as one," Angelique wrote. "The Aggie Community is an amazing one. I am very proud to be a part of it." ☆



*Texas A&M University's 1999 Aggies On Wall Street program included a number of graduates who were working in Manhattan on Sept. 11. At top left is Morris Hurt '01, In the front row are Payton Mayes '98 (far left), Travis Machen '99 (4th from right), Robyn Sparks '00 (second from right) and Bryan Sweeney '00 (far right). Through the fog in the background are visible the twin towers of the World Trade Center.*

way up to NYC this morning and is stranded in Chicago right now. So, although they're all okay, please keep them in your prayers as they are all separated right now."

At the nation's capital, Jim Edge '80 was in the D-ring of the Pentagon (second ring from the outside) just 30 meters from where American Flight 77 crashed through the building. He and eight others in his first floor office were "blown to the deck, covered with parts of the walls, part of the roof, and other immediate debris." He recalls that "smoke and fumes from burning jet fuel and the building itself began filling the area." They exited "through a hole where the door actually used to be,

## Her Biggest Story Happened Right In Front Of Her Eyes

**TEXAS A&M** journalism graduate Melinda Murphy '86, a television reporter for WB11, flagship station of the WB Network in New York City, spent 7 hours in a helicopter hovering above lower Manhattan following the World Trade Center attack.

Trained as a hard news reporter, Melinda now primarily works as a feature and traffic reporter and that morning (Sept. 11) she'd been hovering next to the World Trade Center just a half hour before the first plane hit. In fact, she and her crew had commented that they thought it was the prettiest they'd ever seen the towers looking.

Following the morning show, Melinda and her photographer were back at the station in mid-town when she noticed her producer looking at the monitors over her head. "I turned to see smoke coming from one of the twin towers. At first, I

another friend, in a police department helicopter, was hovering closer to the twin towers attempting a rescue from above when the second plane went directly under them, narrowly missing."

Pilot Ray Rivera flew the helicopter from Caldwell, New Jersey, and met them at the heliport at 30th and the Hudson River.



*Aerial photographer Chet Wilson (left), reporter Melinda Murphy '86 and pilot Ray Rivera.*



*Melinda Murphy '86 took this photo of Ground Zero six weeks after the attack.*

thought it was video from the bombing (in 1993) and I immediately wondered why they were playing the old video." Then, she saw the live bug on the screen and ran out the door as aerial photographer Chet Wilson called to launch the helicopter.

Many hours later Melinda learned that "those live pictures we saw were shot by a friend hovering over the Bayonne Bridge for a regular traffic report. Another helicopter was further away over the George Washington Bridge and was the first to spot the initial burst of flame. As the closer chopper watched in horror, the second plane flew directly over their heads and crashed right in front of them. Meanwhile,

ble accidents—even bloody crime scenes, but, she said, "Nothing we've seen before comes close to the horror of watching those burning buildings.

"Just as Chet was helping me understand what the interior fire department attack would entail and talking about the massive numbers of firefighters already

inside, we watched in horror as the building collapsed. At that split second, we knew thousands were dead. All the pictures on TV will never do justice to what it was like to watch the towers collapse with your own eyes.

"I was live within seconds and it was literally all I could do to hold back the tears."

Melinda's husband works on Broadway just a couple of blocks south of the towers and his sister was at 1 Liberty Plaza, the building directly across the street—now in danger of toppling. She talked to her husband from the cab after the first plane hit and could only wonder if that might be their last conversation.

They landed to refuel at Linden. There they shared stories with

other news crews.

"I tried in vain to contact my husband, but no luck. Just as we took off, my cell phone rang. It was my sister-in-law and then I heard his voice. He was okay. I began to sob. Only then did I realize just how worried I'd been.

"My sister-in-law, late for work, came out of the subways after the first plane had hit. She went to my husband's building and, after the second crash, they went down to the street. Standing below when the first tower collapsed, they were covered with debris. They ran like hell, grabbing the last ferry out (of Manhattan).

The news crew hovered for several more hours, came down to refuel again and took off. "For the next several hours, we were the only aircraft in the country allowed to fly that was not a military or rescue vehicle. Again, I went live countless times and I have to say, my photographer got some of the best shots I've ever seen and my pilot did an amazing job holding a hover for those countless hours. I'm blessed to have a great team in the air."

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# Three Members Of The Aggie Family Lost In Tragedy

*In the midst of the tragedies in New York and Washington, Aggies everywhere were saddened to learn of the deaths of three members of the Aggie family. The thoughts and prayers of countless thousands go out to these three, their families and friends.*

## Lt. Col. Jerry Don Dickerson '92

Lt. Col. Jerry Don Dickerson '92, Assistant Executive Officer for the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, died



in the Pentagon Sept. 11 when hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. His long-time friend, Lt. Col. Glenn Harp told Maureen O'Hagen of

the *Washington Post* that Jerry Dickerson's photo could illustrate a definition of Army values in the dictionary. "For him, it was selfless service," Harp said. "He cared more for others than he did for himself."

The 41-year-old Dickerson was "a key player in molding and shaping the future of the United States Army," according to Harp. He enrolled in ROTC while earning a bachelor's in economics at Mississippi State University and served in the National Guard before joining the Army in 1983. He earned his master's in industrial engineering at Texas A&M University in 1992.

He served with the only 155mm artillery battery at the Berlin Wall before working his way through a series of command positions. He taught at the U.S. Army Logistics Management College and completed Command and General Staff College. He served in Korea and then held various operations research analyst positions on the Army Staff. He received three Meritorious Service Medals and earned the Army Air Assault and Airborne badges.

His brother-in-law, David Dantzler, told the *Washington Post* that Jerry "had an immediate impact on anybody he met along the way."

Jerry's wife, Page, called him after the attacks in New York and they spoke once

more before the plane hit the Pentagon. The couple lived with their children, 11-year-old Will and 15-year-old Beth, in Springfield, Virginia.

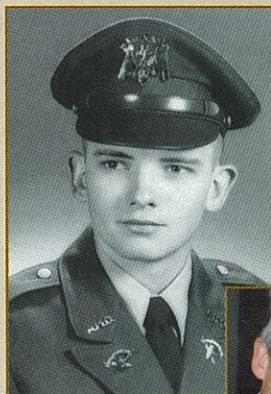
Lt. Col. Rocky Gay '93, who earned his master's degree at the same time as Dickerson and is at A&M working on a doctorate, said, "You just don't expect that to happen at the Pentagon." He said that Dickerson "was a very humble guy and would always go out of his way to help with anything."

Memorial services were held for Jerry Dickerson at Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Springfield, Virginia. (See Silver Taps on page 68.)

## Jimmy Nevill Storey '65

Mr. Jimmy Nevill Storey '65, born in Texarkana, Arkansas, has lived in Katy, Texas, for the

past 24 years. He was a regional financial advisor for the Southwest Region of Marsh McLennan. On the morning of September 11, Jim was on the 99th Floor of the north tower of New York's World Trade Center.



Mr. Storey was a 1965 graduate of the Texas A&M College of Business. As a student, he was in the Corps of Cadets. Jim's mother, Mrs. Iva Dell DeStefano said that Jim loved his A&M experience. He and his family lived in the Bryan/College Station area during his time at school. He made it home often after graduation.

Jim met his wife Pam at home in DeKalb, Texas, and married her shortly after graduating from Texas A&M University. They were married for 36 years. Together, they have three children, Cynthia Morrow of Conroe, a Texas A&M graduate, Tracey Storey of Princeton, New Jersey, and a son, Geof Storey

of Houston. Jim and Pam also have four grandchildren.

Jim's family learned of the terrorist attacks when Kaye, Jim's younger sister who lives in Oregon, phoned home to their mother. Mrs. DeStefano knew that Jim was in New York at a meeting in the World Trade Center. Words cannot describe the horror the Storey family felt at that time. They sat together watching the television in utter disbelief.

Immediately after the news broke, Jim's middle child Tracey went to the city to find more information. She went to Jim's office, to hospitals, and all over the city trying to find her father. Mrs. DeStefano says, "Tracey is much like her father—a go getter—she was going to get answers, and nothing was going to stand in her way."

As the hours passed, the Storey family was faced with the terrible reality of what had happened. On Saturday, September 15, 2001, the family held a memorial service for Mr. Storey, and paid their last respects at the First United Methodist Church in Katy. There were more than 700 people in attendance.

"It was just so hard for us," said Mrs. DeStefano. "He was a wonderful son, a wonderful father and grandfather. Jim

has always been a very caring person, concerned about his family and obligated to look over all of us. I can't believe it."

When asked about the current state of our country and about her thoughts on war, Mrs. DeStefano just added, "It's mind-boggling. I don't know

what to think of it all. I do know that you just can't dwell on what happened."

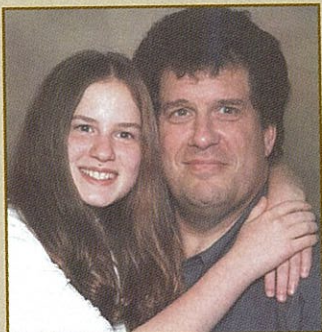
"What Texas A&M did with the Red, White and Blue Out game was beautiful. My son Tim, Jim's brother, and his son were at the game in blue shirts. It's not surprising that Texas A&M did that. They are an amazing group—we've lived around Aggies a lot, they never seem to surprise me." (See Silver Taps on page 66.)



## Dr. Lee A. Adler '84

Dr. Lee A. Adler '84 was on the 103rd floor of the north tower of New York's World Trade Center when it was struck by hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 on Sept. 11.

Forty-eight year old Adler was a systems programmer at Cantor Fitzgerald, an international bond trading firm which lost 700 (or 70%) of its New York employees.



Lee Adler with his daughter, Lauren Sarah.

Lee Adler earned a Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry at Texas A&M University after receiving a B.A. degree from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He lived in Springfield, New Jersey, with his wife Alice Doerge Adler, a Bryan, Texas native, and their daughter Lauren Sarah.

"I would have to say (Lee had) a very kind heart and a rough exterior," his cousin Dennis Schonborn told Laura Hipp of the Bryan-College Station Eagle. Once you knew him, he could be your best friend. And a good one at that."

A memorial service was held in Springfield. (See Silver Taps on page 67.)



## Aggies Serving Our Country



### THE USS CONSTELLATION SOMEWHERE IN THE PERSIAN GULF

Three Navy pilots (l-r) Lt. Trey Berry '93, Lt. Blaine Tompkins '94 and Lt. Trey Stone '96 recently returned from a tour aboard the USS Constellation in the Persian Gulf. Tompkins is stationed at LeMoore Naval Air Station, California and flies the F/A-18 Hornet while Berry and Stone pilot the E-2C Hawkeye and are stationed in San Diego.



### THE USS ENTERPRISE SOMEWHERE OFF OF SOUTHERN ASIA

Stationed onboard are (l-r) KNEELING: Lt. Cmdr. Bryan Mills '90, Lt. Cmdr. Marcell S. Padilla '88; STANDING: Lt. Ray Hernandez '90, Lt. Chad Hesters '96, Lt. Cmdr. Dennis L. Hassman '88, Lt. Cmdr. Todd Lennon '88, Cmdr. Paul Bradfield '84, Lt. Joel Korkowski '94 and Lt. Cmdr. Eric Mitchell '86. Most are assigned to units deployed on the Enterprise.

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# Standing United

**September 22, 2001**

was a very special day for Texas Aggies. Our very own Kyle Field was turned into a sea of Red, White and Blue in a breathtaking display of patriotism and school spirit that could only happen at Texas A&M.

It all started with a simple internet posting, and in just a matter of days, a handful of students and their diehard following managed to have red, white and blue shirts produced, sold and distributed to more than 70,000 loyal Aggies. This Red, White and Blue Out event generated nearly \$200,000 for the families of Police and Firefighter victims in New York City. It was indeed a proud day for Texas Aggies everywhere.

The story however, only gets better. On the Tuesday following the Red, White and Blue Out game, at the weekly Baytown A&M Club luncheon, Club President David Evans '61 and his club members were busy coordinating another type of event. Just minutes into their meeting, the Baytown A&M Club had pledged to send the original five student event coordinators to New York City so that they could present the checks in person! David arranged for Continental Airlines to provide free airfare, for the New York City Hilton to provide free hotel rooms, and for the New York A&M Club to coordinate several activities in and around Gotham. Additionally, the Baytown A&M Club committed to providing each of the students with spending money as well as a \$1,000 scholarship for the spring semester!

Texas A&M students Eric Bethea '03, Nick Luton '02, Cole Robertson '03, Kourtney Rogers '03, and Josh Rosinski '02, departed Easterwood Airport for New York City on Wednesday, November 7, and returned after 3 days and 4 nights in the Big Apple! The group presented a grand total of \$180,000, to the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Widows and Children's Fund & the Uniform Firefighters Association Widows and Children's Fund (each association received a \$90,000 donation).

"This has been an incredibly proud moment for The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M", said Porter Garner '79, Executive Director for The Association. "Special thanks to the David Evans '61 and the Baytown A&M Club, Holly Honnicutt '97 and the New York A&M Club, and the many other generous Aggies who helped coordinate this incredible Aggie adventure."

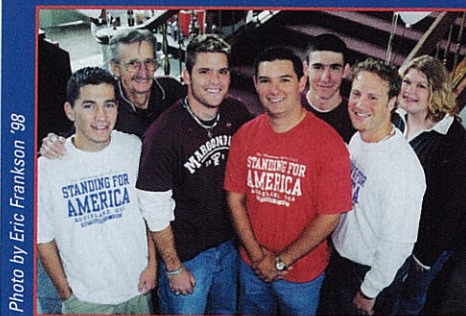


Photo by Eric Frankson '98

Baytown A&M Club President David Evans '61, second from left, joined Red, White & Blue Out organizers (l-r) Nick Luton, Josh Rosinski, Cole Robertson, Jared Pittman, Eric Bethea and Kourtney Rogers at The Association's Council Meeting on Oct. 27.



Photo by Johnson Photography

Students sold Red, White & Blue t-shirts to wear at the football game.



Photo by Johnson Photography

Students show their American pride with signs and "Standing Up For America" t-shirts.

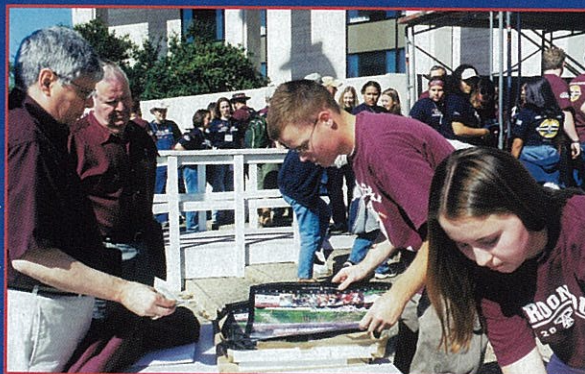


Photo by Jerry C. Cooper '63

Students sold Red, White & Blue posters during the tailgate party at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

**RED, WHITE, and BLUE OUT**





# NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Organizers of the September 22nd Red, White and Blue Out event at Kyle Field traveled to New York City to present \$180,000 to the families of police and firemen killed in the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center. Making most of their visit, the students took advantage of all the Big Apple had to offer. It was a very special trip for five very special Aggie students.

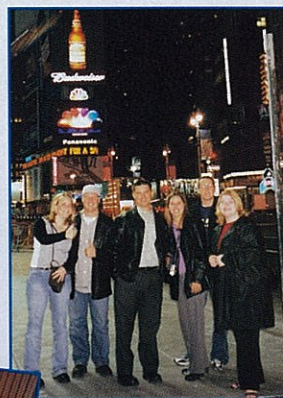


*Day 1:*  
*Wednesday, November 7*

**4:40 p.m.** – Departed College Station for Newark

**11:35 p.m.** – Arrived Newark, New Jersey, ready to see the city

**12:15 p.m.** – Visiting Times Square upon arrival



*Day 2:*  
*Thursday, November 8*

**10 a.m.** – Studio audience guests of ABC's *The View*. Media personality Barbara Walters addressed the group and commended them for an outstanding fundraising effort. The students and their "Standing for America" t-shirts were a part of the live broadcast.



**Noon** – Lunch at John's Pizzeria in midtown

**2 p.m.** – Harbor Tour and view of the city



**5:30 p.m.** – Special tour of the CBS evening news with Wayne Nelson '78, Senior Executive Producer of the Evening News with Dan Rather. Fellow Texan, Dan Rather, wanted the group to be sure to say that he personally thought the Texas Aggie Band was the best band in the world!



**7:12 p.m.** – Aggie Happy Hour with the New York A&M Club. Holly Honnicutt '97, President of the New York A&M Club met David Evans '61, President of the Baytown A&M Club. These two generous Aggies helped make the trip a success!



**9:30 p.m.** – Dinner at Carmine's in uptown. A fun, lighthearted Italian style restaurant, where the students even had their own mini-Yell Practice.



## Day 3 Friday, November 9

**11:15 a.m.** – Police escort picked up the student delegation for the official check presentation. On the way to the station, the students were escorted through police checkpoints to view Ground Zero.

**11:45 a.m.** – Check presentation at the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association to Mr. Patrick Lynch, President of the PBA. Eric, Nick, Cole, Josh, and Kourtney, along with students Molly Manning '02, Patrick Bensinger '01 and Jennifer Roberson '03 presented \$180,000 to the Widow's and Children's Fund of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and the Uniformed Firefighters Associations.



Mr. Lynch delivered a very gracious thank you message to the students and members of the New York A&M Club who were in attendance. "Thank you for taking care of our families during a time when we could not take care of ourselves."

**1:30 p.m.** – Tour and visit to Ground Zero and surrounding areas

**2:30 p.m.** – Special tour of the New York Mercantile Exchange which is headed by President Bo Collins '88. Anu Ahluwalia '93 provided an exclusive tour of the facility as well as a personal visit to the trading floor.



**6-8 p.m.** – Aggie Reception at the home of Doug Baker '88 and Keri Sprinkle '95. Members of the New York A&M Club hosted a private reception for the trailing Aggie delegation.



## Day 4 Saturday, November 10

**10 a.m.** – Shopping, shopping, and more shopping in Rockefeller Center. The students were lucky enough to see the arrival of the Christmas Tree at the Rockefeller Center ice skating rink.

**Noon** – New York A&M Club game-watching party at "Time Out Sports Bar and Grill."

**4 p.m.** – Visit to Central Park and 5th Avenue for a little shopping

**8 p.m.** – Visited Broadway to see the show "42nd Street."



## Day 5 Sunday, November 11

Return To Aggieland





Photo by Jerry C. Cooper '63

## Her Biggest Story Happened Right In Front Of Her Eyes

(continued from page 5)

"When we finally did land close to 4:30PM, we were exhausted. And our trip home which normally takes less than 45 minutes, took us more than four hours. I finally got home and hugged my husband for a very long time.

"I slept for about an hour and went to my studio. My colleagues on the ground went through, what I feel were, far more traumatic experiences. One reporter had chest pains from the dust. A photographer was directly below when the first plane hit and was trampled during the collapse.

"Since then, I've had about 4 hours of sleep and have been working non-stop from our traffic center. The traffic closures are many, complicated by more than 90 bomb threats with evacuations yesterday. I was on the air constantly through the day from 5AM until about 7PM, breaking news of the evacuations as well as a police chase on Staten Island.

"They did send me home for a couple of hours last night. To relax, I walked my dogs. I live on the Jersey side of the Hudson River and my view is of the city. But there is no longer a city to see—lower Manhattan is gone.

"Today, things are calming down and it's beginning to soak in. The World Trade Center is gone. People I know are dead. The world is a changed place. And the extreme sadness has set in for us all. Last night, we had terrible storms and, quite honestly, I woke up to the thunder and lightning thinking we were under attack again—evidence of just how on edge the city is.

"I was back at work first thing this morning. And while I am glad to be able to do my part as a reporter and never prouder of my profession, I'd prefer to be a volunteer or at least be on the scene itself.

Melinda did go to Ground Zero that first week and again six weeks later. On her first trip, the National Guard kept her at bay. But the second time, she says she "stood on the site where those proud towers once stood. The memories came flooding back, the devastation all the more evident."

"Of course the hardest thing of all is realizing that no matter what any of us do, it can't turn back the hands of time. We are living in a new world." ☆

*NOTE: Melinda is now working with four others compiling a book of journalists' accounts of their work on September 11th. The book is due out in the spring.*

## Aggies Serving Our Country

(continued from page 7)



### HORNBURG REVIEWS CORPS

Air Force Gen. Hal M. Hornburg '68, who had been named commander of the Air Combat Command barely a week earlier, reviewed A&M's Corps of Cadets march-in at Kyle Field before the Texas football game Nov. 23. He commands more than 100,000 military and civilian personnel and some 1,000 aircraft. He previously commanded the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, directed air operations over Bosnia, commanded the Joint Warfighting Center, served on the joint staff and was director of operations at Air Force headquarters.

## The Official RED, WHITE, and BLUE OUT Poster



In addition to raising nearly \$200,000 for the New York Police and Firefighters Relief Funds, the Red, White and Blue organizers are selling this poster to raise more support.

Red, White and Blue Out posters are available weekdays at Texas A&M's Graphic Services office on Ireland Street and the Copy Center on the first floor of Sterling Evans Library.